Project I.D. No. 5

NAME: ONO, YASAKU DATE OF BIRTH: 1883 PLACE OF BIRTH: FUKUSHIMA
Age: 84 Sex: M Marital Status: ___ Education: GRAMMAR + 3 yrs NIGHT SCHOOL

PRE-WAR:
Date of arrival in U.S.: 1903 Age: 20 M.S. M (after arrival) Port of entry: _____
Occupation/s: 1. RAILROAD Worker 2. RR TIMEKEEPER 3. _____
Place of residence: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
Religious affiliation: CHRISTIAN (1904)
Community organizations/activities: _____

EVACUATION:
Name of assembly center: MOVED TO CLEARFIELD, UTAH TO AVOID EVAC., FARMED
Name of relocation center: THEN TO SALT LAKE CITY 1942/43
Dispensation of property: NONE Names of bank/s: HAD ACCT
Jobs held in camp: 1. _____ 2. _____
Jobs held outside of camp: _____
Left camp to go to: _____

POST-WAR:
Date returned to West Coast: REMAINED IN SALT LAKE POST WAR
Address/es: 1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____
Religious affiliation: CHRISTIAN
Activities: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
If deceased, date, place and age at time of death: _____

Name of interviewer: F Kato Date: 1971 Place: SALT LAKE
translation F Kato

No ID CARD

#5

A STUDY OF PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF ISSEI IN THE USA

1. In Japan

Yasaku Ono. My birthplace is Fukushima-ken, Date gori, Utshima Mura I was born on October 28, 1883. I am 84 years old.

During Russo-Japanese war I was in primary school. During Sino-Japanese and World War I and Manchurian events, I was here in America. I remember them.

I have no recollec tion of any sad events - during Kanto daishinsai, I was here in America.

My family was Buddhist. I heard rumors about Christianity and I attended many meetings.

I attended grammar school and three years night school.

I came to America to make money.

II. On the Ship

January 3, 1903, I landed in America by way of Hawaii. Hawaii at that time was not much different from Japan. The name of the ship was "Korea-Maru" and the passengers were all laborers. I have no particular recollection of anything which happened on the ship.

I thought America was a good country and I worked immediately for a railroad company.

III. First Impressions of America

I thought it was a good country. I do not remember anything about how the immigration officers treated me. When I first came to America and worked for the railroad company, I thought I would be ridiculed but there was no such incident. I did not have any trouble. I learned English so there was no hardship about communicating. Everything I did, I enjoyed. I was working for the railroad and was treated with kindness for which I am grateful.

DURING THOSE DAYS, ALL SINGLE MEN DRANK AND GAMBLED DURING PAY DAYS AND ON SATURDAYS BUT I DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN SUCH ENTERTAINMENTS. WHENEVER I CAME BY, THE MEN HID THEIR CARDS SAYING, "HERE COMES A CHRISTIAN, HERE COMES A CHRISTIAN."

IV. PERIOD OF SETTLEMENT

MY UNCLE FOUND A BRIDE FOR ME. HE BROUGHT MY BOAT FARE AND TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING FOR ME. I WAS MARRIED IN SEATTLE. I HAVE NO COMMENTS RE PICTURE BRIDES.

I DID NOT FEEL ANY HOME SICKNESS. EVERYTHING WENT SMOOTHLY. I DO NOT RECALL ANY HARDSHIPS. I GOT ALONG FINE EVERY WHERE I WENT BECAUSE I KNEW ENGLISH. I EXPERIENCED NO DISCRIMINATION. I THOUGHT THERE WAS NO BETTER COUNTRY. THE SALARY WAS VERY CHEAP - ONE HOUR 17½ CENTS.

THIS PRESENT HOUSE I BROUGHT IT IN MY SON'S NAME. I PAID $5000. I BROUGHT THE LAND AND THE HOUSE TOGETHER. I DID NOT REQUIRE ANY HELP AND DID NOT REQUEST HELP FROM ANY ASSOCIATIONS. I BROUGHT IT MYSELF AND WITH MY OWN MONEY.

I DO NOT HAVE ANY PLEASURE - JUST WORKING. I LIKE FISHING.

IN ORDER TO BRING UP MY CHILDREN IN THE WAY WE DESIRED, UP TO THE TIME OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO EAT BETWEEN MEALS.

I WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SEND MY CHILDREN TO JAPAN BUT WHEN THEY GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL, THEY WERE AMERICANIZED AND DID NOT WANT TO GO TO JAPAN.

YES, I HAVE A FEW RECOLLECTIONS. DURING WORLD WAR I, I WAS A TIMEKEEPER. MANY OF THE WORKERS WERE EXEMPTED FROM DRAFT BECAUSE THEY WERE WORKING FOR THE RAILROAD.

I DID NOT HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH SEGREGATED SCHOOLS BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS NOT A GOOD THING.

I HEARD ABOUT CHRISTIANITY. AROUND 1903. IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MY OWN RELIGION, I MADE EVERY EFFORT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT AND I WAS BABTIZED IN 1904.

V. DEPRESSION PERIOD

DURING DEPRESSION, EVERYONE SUFFERED BUT I DID NOT EXPERIENCE ANY HARDSHIPS. RAILROAD PEOPLE WERE GOOD TO ME SO I WAS GRATEFUL FOR BEING IN SUCH A GOOD COUNTRY.

I MADE UP MY MIND NOT TO RETURN TO JAPAN IN 1910.

VI. THE WORLD WAR II.

EVERYONE WHO WERE FRIENDLY YESTERDAY CHANGED AND KEPT US MORE OR LESS AT A RESPECTABLE ARM'S DISTANCE.

WHEN JAPAN ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR, WE DID NOT THINK IT WAS A WAR, WE THOUGHT IT WAS A JOKE.

I WAS WORKING AT THE RAILROAD. SINCE I HAD RE SPONSIBILITY, I HAD TO MAKE MY ROUNDS AND WHEN I WENT TO THE ROUND HOUSE AND OTHER RLACES, WORKERS SAID THAT IF ONO COMES AROUND WE WILL KILL HIM AND DO THIS AND THAT TO ME BUT I WENT WITHOUT FEAR. WHEN I WAS NOTIFIED THAT I HAD TO LEAVE THE CAMP WITHIN THREE DAYS, I WAS REALLY SURPRISED. AT ANY RATE, AFTER WORKING FOR SO LONG, I HAD LINGERING REGRETS ABOUT LEAVING.

ALL MY AMERICAN FRIENDS ADVISED ME NOT TO GO TO CAMP SO I DECIDED AGAINST IT.

MY AMERICAN FRIENDS ALL SYMPATHIZED WITH ME. MY MOST GRATIFYING INCIDENT WAS WHEN A LETTER FROM MY AMERICAN FRIEND CAME SAYING THAT WAR WAS BETWEEN COUNTRY AND COUNTRY AND NOT BETWEEN PERSON AND PERSON AND THAT OUR RELATION WOULD NOT CHANGE.

SINCE I DID NOT HAVE ANY PROPERTY, ALL I HAD WAS MONEY IN THE BANK, THE MOVE WAS EASY. WE HAD TO MOVE OUT OF THE RAILROAD YARD WITHIN THREE DAYS SO WITHIN THREE DAYS WE MOVED TO UTAH AND SETTLE D IN CLEARFIELD, WHERE WE GREW SUGAR BEETS AND TOMATOES. AT THAT TIME WE HAD A GOOD CROP OF SUGAR BEETS AND TOMATOES AND THE BOSS WAS VERY HAPPY. AFTER ONE YEAR, AROUND THANKSGIVING TIME, WE MOVED TO OUR PRESENT SALT LAKE CITY ADDRESS.

ONE WAS 19 YEARS OLD AND THE OTHER 18. ONE SON VOLUNTEERED FOR THE ARMY IN 1942.

MORMON CHURCH MEMBERS WERE VERY GOOD TO US.

VII. ASSEMBLY CENTER, RELOCATION CENTER, WAR TIM E PERIOD

I DID NOT HAVE TO GO TO ANY RELOCATION CAMP SO I RELOCATED TO SALT LAKE CITY.

I THINK NISEIS ARE CITIZENS OF THIS COUNTRY SO THEY SHOULD BE FAITHFUL TO AMERICA.

VIII. RESETTLEMENT - RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD

AT ANY RATE EVERYWHERE I WENT, I HAD NO WORRY NOR FEAR. EVERYONE WAS GOOD TO US.

I WANTED TO HAVE MY CHILDREN RECEIVE A GOOD EDUCATION. MY ELDEST SON WAS ALWAYS STUDYING.

NO ONE HELPED ME. MY CHILDREN FOUND THE HOUSE AND I BROUGHT IT. I WAS WORKING FOR THE COUNTY HOSPITAL - WORKED 16 YEARS. I DID NOT EXPERIENCE ANY HARDSHIPS OR SUFFERING. EVERYONE WAS GOOD TO US.

IX. CONCLUSION

ALWAYS DEPEND ON GOD AND RECEIVE HIS GUIDANCE AND PROTECTION AND GO TO HEAVEN - IS OUR ONLY DESIRE.